Import of crude oil

1494. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government imports crude oil in large quantities;

(b) if so, the quantum of crude oil import during the last three years; year-wise with amount spent thereon;

(c) whether an initiative has been launched for creating an energy secure environment to undo over-dependence on imported crude oil; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The quantity of crude oil imported and the amount spent on this during the last three years is given below:

Year	Quantity (in thousand metric tones)	Value (in Rs. crore)
2001-2002	44878	35,305
2002-2003	46593	44,491
2003-2004	60294	56,790

(c) and (d) Government have taken the following steps for creating an energy secured environment to reduce dependence on imported crude oil:

i. Improve the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes; in particular Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has taken up 15 fields for this purpose at an estimated investment of Rs. 10,000 crore, which would also help in accelerating oil production from these fields.

ii. Increase exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP); under the four rounds of NELP., Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) have been signed for 90 blocks. Bids for 20 exploration blocks have now been invited under NELP-V.

iii. Speed up exploration efforts by ONGC and OIL in the blocks allocated to them on nomination basis.

iv. Explore in new areas, specially in the deep water and difficult frontier areas, as also explore in the deeper layers of already producing fields.

v. Develop newly discovered fields faster and to step up the use of new technologies for seismic surveys, work over, simulation operations, drilling of wells etc in producing areas.

vi. Acquire acreages abroad. ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL), Indian Oil Corproation Ltd (IOCL), GAIL (India) Ltd. (GAIL) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL) have participating interest in acreages abroad.

vii. Make efforts to import natural gas in the form of Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) as well as through trans-national pipelines from gas rich regions such as the Middle-East including Iran, Central Asia and South East Asia

viii. It has been decided to set up strategic crude oil storage of 5 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) capacity as an emergency response mechanism against short term oil supply disruptions.

Norms on ethanol-doped Petrol

1495. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have changed the norms to run automobiles on ethanol doped petrol;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the new notification of the Ministry does not allow oil companies to blend ethanol in petrol; and

(c) if so, the reasons behind this move?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The Government of India had set up three pilot projects to examine operational, financial, environmental and other related aspects of 5% ethanol-blended petrol during the year 2001. Based on the success of the pilot projects, a decision was notified by the Government of India on 12.9.2002 to sell only 5% ethanol blended petrol in select States and Union Territories w.e.f. 1.1.2003. However, due to the complex and differential tax structures of State Governments and the inconsistent availability of ethanol, the programme could be implemented only in a phased manner Since late 2003 and in 2004, the availability of ethanol has been scarce and erratic in the States of Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. The price of ethanol also rose significantly at all locations.

After discussions with State Governments, the Government has notified *vide* GSR 705(E) dated 27.10.2004 that five percent ethanol-blended petrol,